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SECURITY INFORMATION

8 May 1952

MEMORANDUM TO MR. MICHAEL CORSON

SUBJECT: O/NE Suggestions for Projects to be Undertaken
[redacted]

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1. Pursuant to your conversation of this morning with myself and with Messrs. [redacted] and Bundy of this office, here is a list (not in any priority order) of the projects O/NE would like to propose [redacted] during the next fiscal year:

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Tab 1

a. Soviet Estimate of Probable US Intentions. A study on this subject would cover what the Kremlin would think, in the light of Communist preconceptions, the US and the West were likely to do over the next two-four years, with particular reference to whether the Kremlin would think the US and the West were likely to initiate a war against the USSR. It would be substantially a "think-piece", although supporting research into current Soviet statements and Soviet history might be useful. [redacted]

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b. Analysis of Long-range Indicators of Soviet Courses of Action. This study would take basic Soviet policies and actions in selected fields and attempt to relate them to Soviet foreign courses of action. The study would begin by analysing the shifts in Soviet capital investment, educational, and other programs produced by the deepening fear of war in the years preceeding June 1941. It would then analyse similar Soviet actions in the years since 1945 in an effort to see whether similar shifts are taking place. Even if the second part of the study yielded no significant results, the first part would assist prediction over longer periods than the usual intelligence "indicators".

Tab 2

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Tab 3

c. Soviet Courses of Action through Mid-1957. This study, (like a.), would be primarily a "think-piece", and should be undertaken only if a high-level person is available to head it. The purpose should be to assess general Soviet strategy, rather than attempting to specify actions in all areas.

Tab 4

d. Indicators of Sino-Soviet Relations. It is believed that important clues to the state of Sino-Soviet relations may be found through detailed study of relative Chinese and Russian influence in Communist parties in India, Japan, and perhaps Indo-China.

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RAYMOND J. SONTAG

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